

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A running gear of a ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle, comprising:

a running gear unit with an engine, which is pivotally supported to a vehicle body to freely swing;

an exhaust pipe extending towards a rear portion of the engine; and

a support unit for making the running gear unit support a midway section of the exhaust pipe in a longitudinal direction, the support unit comprising:

a first bracket provided on the running gear unit;

a second bracket provided on the midway section of the exhaust pipe; and

a pair of engaging members vertically arranged for engaging a rear end part of the first bracket and a front end part of the second bracket with each other in any relative position in a fore-and-aft direction.

2. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the engaging members are designated as first engaging members and the support unit includes a pair of second engaging members vertically arranged for engaging the front end part of the first bracket with the running gear unit, such that of the first and second engaging members, upper first and second engaging members are positioned almost at a same height in a vertical direction, while lower first and second engaging members are positioned almost at a same height in the vertical direction, and each pitch dimension between the first engaging members and between the second engaging members in the vertical direction, respectively, is set to be larger than each pitch dimension between the upper first and second engaging members in the fore-and-aft direction and between the lower first and second engaging members in the fore-and-aft direction, respectively.

3. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 2, wherein when the vehicle body is viewed from its side, an axial center of the midway section of the exhaust pipe goes through between each pair of the upper and lower first and second engaging members.

4. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 3, wherein when the vehicle body is viewed from its rear, the first bracket is bent to dent an outer surface of the midway section thereof in the vertical direction, the midway section of the exhaust pipe is positioned on an outer side of the dent, and the exhaust pipe is placed in a position forming a gap between the midway section thereof and the dent.

5. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the exhaust pipe includes an exhaust pipe body extending towards the rear portion of the engine, an exhaust muffler extending towards a rear end part of the exhaust pipe body and the second bracket attached to both the exhaust pipe body and the exhaust muffler.

6. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 2, wherein the exhaust pipe includes an exhaust pipe body extending towards the rear portion of the engine, an exhaust muffler extending towards a rear end part of the exhaust pipe body and the second bracket attached to both the exhaust pipe body and the exhaust muffler.

7. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 3, wherein the exhaust pipe includes an exhaust pipe body extending towards the rear portion of the engine, an exhaust muffler extending towards a rear end part of the exhaust pipe body and the second bracket attached to both the exhaust pipe body and the exhaust muffler.

8. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 4, wherein the exhaust pipe includes an exhaust pipe body extending towards the rear portion of the engine, an exhaust muffler

extending towards a rear end part of the exhaust pipe body and the second bracket attached to both the exhaust pipe body and the exhaust muffler.

9. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising a front wheel connected to a front fork of the vehicle body.

10. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising a rear wheel to be bore by a suspension unit.

11. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 5, wherein the exhaust pipe body and the exhaust muffler both have a circular cross section, with the circular cross section of the exhaust muffler being larger in an outer dimension than the circular cross section of the exhaust pipe body.

12. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the first bracket is made of sheet metal.

13. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the second bracket is made of sheet metal.

14. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the first bracket is at a position excursing towards one side from a center part of the vehicle body in a width direction.

15. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the second bracket is welded to the midway section of the exhaust pipe.

16. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 2, wherein the first engaging members are provided with a bolt and a nut.

17. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the second bracket is overlaid on an outer surface of the first bracket.

18. (Currently amended) The running gear of the ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle according to claim 2, wherein the second engaging members are each provided with a bolt passing through a circular bolt hole formed on the first bracket.

19. (Currently amended) A running gear of a ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle, comprising:

- a running gear unit with an engine, which is pivotally supported to a vehicle body to freely swing;

- an exhaust pipe extending towards a rear portion of the engine; and

- means for making the running gear unit support a midway section of the exhaust pipe in a longitudinal direction, the means for making the running gear unit support a midway section of the exhaust pipe comprising:

- a first bracket provided on the running gear unit;

- a second bracket provided on the midway section of the exhaust pipe; and

- a pair of engaging members vertically arranged for engaging a rear end part of the first bracket and a front end part of the second bracket with each other in any relative position in a fore-and-aft direction.

20. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a running gear of a ~~saddle-riding-type~~ saddle riding vehicle, comprising:

- pivotally supporting a running gear unit with an engine to a vehicle body to freely swing;

- extending an exhaust pipe towards a rear portion of the engine;

- making the running gear unit support a midway section of the exhaust pipe in a longitudinal direction;

- providing a first bracket on the running gear unit;

- providing a second bracket on the midway section of the exhaust pipe; and

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arranging a pair of engaging members vertically for engaging a rear end part of the first bracket and a front end part of the second bracket with each other in any relative position in a fore-and-aft direction.